

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A method for improving glucose intolerance comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a glucose intolerance improving amount of a chymase inhibitor.

2. (currently amended): The A-method according to claim 1, wherein the method is for prevention and/or treatment of diseases caused by glucose intolerance comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of a chymase inhibitor.

3. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to claim 2 wherein the diseases caused by glucose intolerance are diabetes and/or diabetes complications.

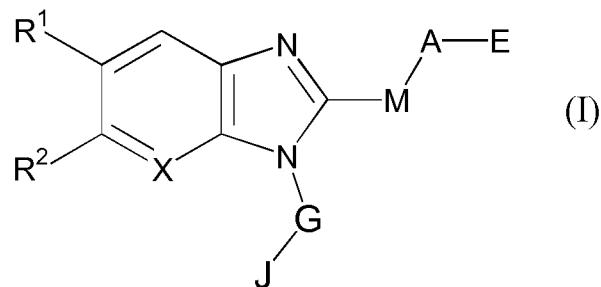
4. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to claim 3 wherein the diabetes complications are diabetic nephropathy, diabetic retinopathy, diabetic peripheral neuropathy, hyperinsulinism, insulin resistance syndrome, arteriosclerosis, acute coronary syndrome, arteriosclerosis obliterans, angitis, stroke, hypertension, renal insufficiency, nephropathy, nephritis, renal artery aneurysm, renal infarction or obesity.

5. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to claim 3 wherein the diabetes complications are diabetic nephropathy, diabetic retinopathy or diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to ~~any one of claims 2-5~~claim 1 further comprising administering an ACE inhibitor.

8. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to any one of claims 2-5 and 7 wherein the chymase inhibitor is the compound represented by formula (I):



[wherein R¹ and R² simultaneously or each independently represent hydrogen, halogen, trihalomethyl, cyano, hydroxyl, C₁-C₄ alkyl or C₁-C₄ alkoxy, or R¹ and R² taken together represent -O-CH₂-O-, -O-CH₂CH₂-O- or -CH₂CH₂CH₂- (wherein the carbon atoms may be optionally substituted by one or more C₁-C₄ alkyl);

A represents substituted or unsubstituted straight, cyclic or branched C₁-C₇ alkylene or alkenylene, which may be interrupted by one or more of atoms or groups selected from -O-, -S-, -SO₂- and -NR³- (wherein R³ represents hydrogen or straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl), the substituents on these groups being selected from halogen, hydroxyl, nitro, cyano, straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkyl, straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkoxy (including cases wherein the neighboring two form an acetal), straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkylthio, straight or branched C₁-C₆ alkylsulfonyl, straight or branched C₁-C₆ acyl, straight or branched C₁-C₆ acylamino,

trihalomethyl, trihalomethoxy, phenyl, oxo or phenoxy optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, wherein one or more of these substituents may each independently be present at any position in the alkylene or alkenylene, except for the case wherein M represents a single bond and the carbon atom of A directly bonded to M is substituted with a hydroxyl and a phenyl at the same time;

E represents $-COOR^3$, $-SO_3R^3$, $-CONHR^3$, $-SO_2NHR^3$, tetrazol-5-yl, 5-oxo-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl or 5-oxo-1,2,4-thiadiazol-3-yl, (wherein R^3 is as defined above);

G represents substituted or unsubstituted straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkylene, which may be interrupted by one or more of atoms or groups selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, $-SO_2-$ and $-NR^3-$ (wherein R^3 is as defined above, provided that either of these atoms or groups is not directly attached to the benzimidazole ring), the substituents on the said alkylene being selected from halogen, hydroxyl, nitro, cyano, straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy (including cases wherein neighboring two form an acetal), trihalomethyl, trihalomethoxy, phenyl or oxo;

M represents a single bond or $-S(O)_m-$, wherein m is an integer ranging from 0 to 2;

J represents substituted or unsubstituted C_4-C_{10} heteroaryl (one or more heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur in the ring), except for imidazole or unsubstituted pyridine ring, the substituents on the said heteroaryl are halogen, hydroxyl, nitro, cyano, straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkoxy (including cases wherein neighboring two form an acetal), straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkylthio, straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkylsulfonyl, straight or branched C_1-C_6 acyl, straight or branched C_1-C_6 acylamino, substituted or unsubstituted anilido, trihalomethyl, trihalomethoxy, phenyl, oxo, $COOR^3$ or phenoxy optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, wherein one or more of these substituents may each independently be present at any position in the ring; and

X represents –CH= or nitrogen].

9. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to claim 8 wherein, in formula (I), R¹ and R² are simultaneously or each independently hydrogen, C₁–C₄ alkyl, C₁–C₄ alkoxy, halogen or cyano;

A is n-propylene;

E is –COOH;

G is methylene;

M is –S–;

J is substituted or unsubstituted benzothienyl or indolyl (wherein the substituent is halogen, hydroxyl, nitro, cyano, straight or branched C₁–C₆ alkyl, straight or branched C₁–C₆ alkoxy (including cases wherein neighboring two form an acetal), straight or branched C₁–C₆ alkylthio, straight or branched C₁–C₆ alkylsulfonyl, straight or branched C₁–C₆ acyl, straight or branched C₁–C₆ acylamino, substituted or unsubstituted anilido, trihalomethyl, trihalomethoxy, phenyl, oxo, COOR³ or phenoxy optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, wherein one or more of these substituents may each independently be present at any position in the ring); and X is –CH=.

10. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to claim 8 wherein R¹ and R² are simultaneously or each independently hydrogen, C₁–C₄ alkyl or C₁–C₄ alkoxy.

11. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to claim 10 wherein R¹ and R² are simultaneously or each independently hydrogen, methyl or methoxy.

12. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to claim 8 wherein J is benzothienyl.

13. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to claim 8 wherein the substituent on J is halogen, cyano, straight or branched C₁–C₄ alkyl, straight or branched C₁–C₄ alkoxy (including cases wherein neighboring two form an acetal) or trihalomethyl.

14. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to claim 13 wherein the substituent on J is F, Cl, cyano, methyl, methoxy or trifluoromethyl.

15. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to claim 14 wherein the substituent on J is methyl.

16. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to any one of claims 21-5 and 7 wherein the chymase inhibitor is 4-(1-((3-indolyl)methyl)benzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((3-benzo[b]thienyl)methyl)-5-methoxybenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((5-methylbenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-5-methoxybenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((4-methylbenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-5-methoxybenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid,

4-(1-((3-benzo[b]thienyl)methyl)-5-cyanobenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((5-methylbenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-6-methoxybenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((4-methylbenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-6-methoxybenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid,

4-(1-((1,5-dimethylindol-3-yl)methyl)benzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((1-methyl-4-chloroindol-3-yl)methyl)benzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((1-methyl-4-fluoroindol-3-yl)methyl)benzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((5-chlorobenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)benzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((5-methylbenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)benzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((4-methylbenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)benzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((4-chlorobenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)benzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((4,6-dimethylbenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)benzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((1-methylindol-3-yl)methyl)-5,6-dimethylbenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((1,4-dimethylindol-3-yl)methyl)-5,6-dimethylbenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-5,6-dimethylbenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((5-chlorobenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-5,6-dimethylbenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((5-methylbenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-5,6-dimethylbenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((4-methylbenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-5,6-dimethylbenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((1,4-dimethylindol-3-yl)methyl)-5,6-dichlorobenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-5,6-dichlorobenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-5-methylbenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((benzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)-6-methylbenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((1,4-dimethylindol-3-yl)methyl)benzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid, 4-(1-((1,4-dimethylindol-3-yl)methyl)-5-methoxybenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid or 4-(1-((1-methyl-4-chloroindol-3-yl)methyl)-5-methoxybenzimidazol-2-ylthio)butanoic acid.

17. (currently amended): The method ~~for prevention and/or treatment~~ according to claims 21-5 and 7 wherein the chymase inhibitor is 4-(1-((4-methylbenzo[b]thiophen-3-yl)methyl)benzimidazol-2ylthio)butanoic acid.

18. - 39. (canceled).